

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15, 35-40, 55, and 56 are pending. Claim 41 has been canceled. Claims 1, 15, and 35 have been amended. New claims 55 and 56 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9,-13, 15, 35, 36, 41, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tsumagari et al. (US 6,360,057 B1).¹

Claims 5-7 and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsumagari et al. (US 6,360,057 B1) in view of Stonedahl (US 2002/0199198 A1).

Claims 13, 14 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsumagari et al. (US 6,360,057 B1) in view of Koyama et al. (US 6,424,385 B1).

During recording of an information stream (e.g., video recording), some events of interest may occur more than once. For example, the specification gives an example of study of people opening a package, where events of interest might include “uses scissors,” “uses teeth,” etc. During recording of the study, occurrences of the events will occur at various times during the recording. Each occurrence of the event is noted along with the time of occurrence of the event during the recording of the information stream.

The claimed invention is directed to providing access to an information stream that is associate with such event markers.² A plurality of the event markers are received, each being associated with a point in time in the information stream. Representations of segments of the information stream are produced for each such point in time for each event marker. When an event marker is associated with a first and a second point in time, representations for respective segments of the information are produced. Groups of segments of the information stream are formed, where each group comprises segments of the information stream that are common to the event marker. The event markers and its group of segments are presented. In this way, multiple occurrences of an event in the information stream can accessed.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in pertinent part:

¹ Claim 42 was canceled in the last Office action.

² Other aspects of the invention disclosed in the pending specification have been claimed, but were subject to a restriction requirement and will be pursued in due course in one or more divisional applications.

...
receiving information representative of a plurality of event markers, each event marker associated with one or more time indices that are points in time in the information stream;

for the event markers, producing representations of segments of the information stream associated with respective time indices of the event markers, wherein when a first event marker is associated with a first time index and a second time index, then a representation of a first segment of the information stream that includes the first time index is produced and a representation of a second segment of the information stream that includes the second time index is produced;

forming one or more groups of segments, each group comprising those segments of the information stream whose one or more time indices are associated with the same event marker; and

for each event marker, presenting a representation of said each event marker and the representations of the segments of the information stream comprising its associated group of segments, wherein the representations are arranged according to an arrangement format, wherein a representation of the first event marker is presented along with a representation of the first segment of the information stream and a second representation of the second segment of the information stream, whereby multiple occurrences of an event in the information stream indicated by an event marker can be accessed. (emphasis added)

Claim 15, as amended, similarly recites:

...
receiving information representative of a plurality of event markers, each event marker associated with one or more time indices that are points in time in the segment of the information stream;

producing representations of segments of the information stream respectively associated with the event markers;

forming one or more groups of segments, each group comprising those segments of the information stream associated with the same event marker;

receiving a source image comprising an image and annotative information for each event marker; and

for each event marker, presenting the image and annotative information associated with said each event marker and presenting the representations of one or more segments the information streams in the group of segments associated with said each event marker,

wherein when a first event marker is associated with a first time index and a second time index, then a representation of the first event marker is presented along with a representation of a first segment of the information stream that includes the first time index and a representation of a second segment of the information stream that includes the second time index, whereby the multiple occurrences of an event in the information stream indicated by the first event marker can be accessed. (emphasis added)

See also similarly amended claim 35.

Tsumagari does not teach an event marker for an event that occurs multiple times in the information stream. In particular, Tsumagari does not teach an event marker having a first time index and a second time index in the information stream. Figs. 25 and 27 were cited for allegedly teaching the claimed “event marker,” and more specifically Tsumagari’s entry points. The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish the claimed “event markers” over Tsumagari’s entry points.

Tsumagari discloses a system for bookmarking arbitrary points in a recording with entry points:

It is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus/method and medium, which allow the user to write or erase a mark (entry point) at an arbitrary recording position of video data, audio data, and the like as if he or she placed a bookmark between pages or at an important position while reading a book.

Column 1, lines 62-67.

Fig. 27 in Tsumagari shows an example of multiple entry points (i.e., bookmarks):
... as exemplified in FIG. 27, an entry point (corresponding to a "bookmark" compared to a book) can be set at an arbitrary position of each program, and text such as "barbecue with family" can be stored in primary text information PRM_TXTI (FIG. 25) of that entry point.

Column 20, lines 61-65.

Fig. 26 shows a display of the entry points (bookmarks). For example, PG1 is titled “barbeque with family,” PG2 is titled “7th birthday of daughter,” and so on. Notable is the fact that Tsumagari’s entry points are associated with a single point in time, namely the point in time in the recording bookmarked by the entry point.

By contrast, the claimed “event marker” is associated with “one or more time indices that are points of time in the information stream.” In fact, the claimed invention claims “a first event marker is associated with a first time index and a second time index” For example, amended claim 1 recites in part:

...
receiving information representative of a plurality of event markers, each event marker associated with one or more time indices that are points in time in the information stream;

... wherein when a first event marker is associated with a first time index and a second time index, then ...;
...

See also similarly amended claims 15 and 35. For at least this reason the Section 102 rejections of claims 1, 15, and 35 are believed to be overcome.

Tsumagari's entry point, being a bookmark into the recorded video, cannot be associated with anything more than one point of time in the recorded video. Tsumagari therefore does not show an entry point having a first time index and a second time index that are points in time in the recorded video. Tsumagari does not teach or even suggest the foregoing recited limitation.

Referring again to Tsumagari's Fig. 25, each entry point (bookmark) has its own corresponding primary text information. Fig. 26 shows a presentation of that primary text information. Moreover, since each entry point represents a bookmarked position in the recorded video, one of ordinary skill would expect there to be only one descriptive text per entry point, as shown in Fig. 26. Tsumagari therefore does not teach or suggest the "representation" aspects of the claimed invention. Tsumagari does not teach or suggest that his entry point is displayed with a group of segments of the recorded video, namely:

...
for the event markers, producing representations of segments of the information stream associated with respective time indices of the event markers, wherein when a first event marker is associated with a first time index and a second time index, then a representation of a first segment of the information stream that includes the first time index is produced and a representation of a second segment of the information stream that includes the second time index is produced;

forming one or more groups of segments, each group comprising those segments of the information stream whose one or more time indices are associated with the same event marker; and

for each event marker, presenting a representation of said each event marker and the representations of the segments of the information stream comprising its associated group of segments, wherein the representations are arranged according to an arrangement format, wherein a representation of the first event marker is presented along with a representation of the first segment of the information stream and a second representation of the second segment of the information stream, whereby multiple occurrences of an event in the information stream indicated by an event marker can be accessed.

as recited in claim 1, and similarly in claims 15 and 35. For at least this reason the Section 102 rejections of claims 1, 15, and 35 are believed to be overcome.

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PATENT

The claims depending respectively from independent claims 1, 15, and 35 are believed to be allowable over the cited art for at least the reason that they depend from allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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